

An explosion occurred at the gas works at Kansas City, Mo., early Wednesday morning, totally wrecking the building. The engineer was seriously injured. The city was left in total darkness.

If there is any man in congress who wants to serve his country well during this session let him invent a scheme by which the Tennessee canal job can be shoked off.

The Chicago and Northwestern railway company will next week open for traffic its new Illinois line from Belvidere, Boone County, to the city of LaSalle, and it will also in a few days open its Dakota line westward to the city of Yankton.

Senator Voorhees has introduced a bill for the admission of Idaho as a state. As Idaho has three times the population of Idaho, and is ten times better territory for agricultural purposes, will some democratic effort in the senate or the house, introduce a bill to admit that territory into the Union?

Latest returns from the British parliamentary elections are as follows: Liberals 594; Tories 248; Irish nationalists 51—the liberals having a clear majority of five members over all. Only seven more members remain to be elected. A coalition between the Irish conservatives and the English liberals against the Irish nationalists is talked of.

A test case of considerable importance has been decided in the superior court at Indianapolis, Indiana, that of the Home Insurance company against Cross. The defendant was one of the policy holders in the American insurance company of Chicago, which, the first of January, 1884, sold its business to the Home insurance company, of New York, the terms being the payment of cash of \$118,000 and the acceptance of premium notes given by the policy holders in the first named company. There were about 400 policy holders in Indiana, and in behalf of the defendant, representing many of these, it was contended that the American company was insolvent and had gone out of business, and that therefore the policy holders were not bound to continue paying their premiums, but were free to insure where they pleased. The verdict decided that the premium notes were still valid, and maintained the right of the Home on all points.

When William H. Vanderbilt was asked about two years ago what gave him the most trouble, he gravely answered "death." It was "Goth" who once said that he knew of no man who had such an intense fear of death as Mr. Vanderbilt. The millionaire worshipped his riches and loved his tremendous power in the business world, and the thought that he must some day leave them all behind, and exchange his palatial home with all its enchantments for the coldness of the grave, robbed him of much of the pleasure of life. He had a deadly fear of a prolonged sickness with its supposed mental fear of the death struggle, but like Colfax and Hendricks death came to him without a pain or a struggle. As powerful as was the influence of Vanderbilt in the stock markets of the country, his death will not perceptibly affect them. There was a time when Daniel Drew could make the commercial world tremble by the sweep of his pen, and when Vanderbilt and Gould could make the stock markets of the country, but the days of such vast individual power have passed, and the death of the richest man on the continent will hardly be felt in business circles. It is difficult to estimate with carelessness the extent of Vanderbilt's riches. He was said to be worth some two hundred millions, and that his annual income was not less than ten millions a year, or \$25,000 a day.

The people may well trust the commission, (civil service) to execute the law perfectly, and with as little irritation as is possible. But of course no relaxation of the principal which underlies it and no weakening of the safeguards which surround it can be expected. Experience in its administration will probably suggest amendments of the methods of its execution, but I venture to hope that we shall never again be permitted to the system to which distributes the public position purely as rewards for partisan service.

The above paragraph is from the president's message, and it shows how thoroughly well the president can preach excellent civil service doctrine, but his sons, by which he must be judged, show poorly he can practice what he preaches. Nearly ten thousand postmasters have been appointed by the new administration since March last, and over 8,000 of them have been appointed because they were democrats. There are about 84 internal revenue collectors in the United States, and since the democratic party came into power, 78 democrats have been appointed collectors, for no other reason than that they are democrats, and consequently the offices were given them as a reward for partisan service. None of the republicans occupied these positions for inefficiency, but because they were republicans and further that democrats wanted their places. In one sense of the word this is all right, because it goes without saying that the offices belong to the party in power, but for the president to preach against the practice of giving offices to partisan workers, and suspend conscientious qualified republicans—men of ability and high character—and put in their place democratic partisans because they are partisans, will not strike the country as being very consistent. A man should put his creed into his deed. But this is one of the things President Cleveland can not do.

The late William H. Vanderbilt, was, it is thought, richer than any single member of the Rothschild family. The Duke of Westminster is said to be worth \$200,000,000, but Mr. Vanderbilt was richer because the Duke's money only pays him about 2 per cent, being mainly in lands

and houses. Mr. Vanderbilt had a much larger income. Last year he held \$51,000,000 of 4 per cent bonds, and later he reduced this amount to \$35,000,000 of government 3 1/2 per cent. His government bonds were worth almost \$75,000,000. At one time he owned 240,000 shares of Michigan Central, 300,000 shares of Northwestern and 200,000 shares of Lake Shore. In addition he had 30,000 Chicago and Rock Island, 20,000 Delaware and Lackawanna and about 20,000 shares in other railroads, making in all about \$60,000,000 worth of railroad bonds, \$3,200,000 of state and city bonds, and 2,000,000 in various manufacturing stocks and mortgages. He valued his house on Fifth Avenue, with its art treasures, at \$3,000,000. His ordinary household expenses were \$200,000 a year. Mr. Vanderbilt was worth \$200,000,000, although his fortune shrunk last year materially through a big decline in stocks and through business depression, but the "bull" movement of the past few months brought it up again. His income was calculated as follows: \$2,372,000 a year from government bonds, \$7,394,000 from railroad stocks, \$576,000 from miscellaneous securities; total, over \$10,000,000 a year, or \$28,000 a day, \$1,200 an hour, or \$19.75 a minute.

DEATH IN A CAVING SEWER.

Four Men Crushed in a Trench at Akron, Ohio. CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 10.—At Akron, Ohio, late Wednesday afternoon, a sewer which was being constructed under a burying ground, four men were crushed to death and three others injured so badly that they will probably die. The cave occurred without a moment's warning. The ground, which had been frozen for two or three days, was softened by a thaw. Three of the men were standing on a scaffolding and the fourth others at the bottom of the sewer, which had been excavated to a depth of twenty-two feet. Suddenly the timbers began cracking, and the water rushed earth for a distance of twenty feet on each side of the sewer rolled down upon the unfortunate workmen. William McGill, one of the men on the scaffolding, fell one of the others were caught by the mass of timbers and earth, and a great crowd of people soon assembled. The groans of the men who were partially buried were heart-rending. They called for assistance, but for some time no one would venture near the hole. Finally, a large force of men went to work with shovels and in half an hour two of the victims were taken out. They were yet alive, but in terrible agony. Another hour of digging brought them to a third man, whose groans had guided the rescuers. Near him was found the body of a fourth man dead. It being apparent at that time that the others were dead, the search was abandoned for the night.

The list of the killed and wounded is as follows: Max Rosensweig, aged 27, single, dead; Henry Frigert, dead; Unknown Italian, dead; Unknown Italian, dead; John Wyckoff, aged 38, married, head and abdomen crushed and leg broken, will die; Henry Walter, aged 35, married, legs crushed and scalp wound, may recover; Augustus Klobas, aged 28, believed to be fatally injured.

Want to Abolish the President. MILWAUKEE, Dec. 10.—The North American Union of Radicals, with headquarters in this city, has issued a memorial to congress asking that the constitution be so amended as to abolish the office of president. The memorial proposes to vest the executive power of the government in an executive council to be chosen by congress. It is claimed that this is a king clothed with greater power than any European sovereign enjoys, the fear of Russia, and that the legislative power cannot enlarge or diminish the executive capacity. The president's powers are vested in a single man, and instances of despotic authority point out in detail.

A Plan That Farnell Will Reject. LONDON, Dec. 10.—The salient point of Lord Salisbury's plan for reform legislation, to be proposed to the cabinet at its next meeting, is the establishment of divisional government boards for Ireland, to be elected and to have such authority as to make them practically local legislatures. It is probable that Mr. Farnell will demand more than this, as he has heretofore condemned a similar scheme as inadequate. The latest indications place the Liberal majority over the combined opposition at six. All the districts except six have now been heard from.

The habitual use of pills is a sure means of ultimately undermining health and laying the foundation for some of the most distressing diseases of the body. Use Dr. James' Kidney and Bladder Pills. A purely vegetable remedy, which tones and regulates the system, curing the blood. It cures all diseases of the stomach, liver, blood and kidneys. Can be taken by the most delicate. 50 cents.

Miss Ida Hull visited in Janesville, Friday. Miss Rose Wood arrived Saturday from Dakota to visit her sister, Mrs. E. Bullock. Mrs. H. Matthews spent a short time in Exeter last week. Mr. E. Tiedeman, of Green Bay, called in Lima Friday. Mrs. E. Kenyon and daughter, have returned from a visit in Janesville. Miss Ida Sackett, of Appleton, was a recent guest of Mrs. Harriet Babson. Miss Anna Gove returned Monday from a week's visit in Delavan. A goodly number attended the social at Wm. Truman's last week Tuesday evening, and had the pleasure of meeting Rev. Mr. S. J. Gifford, and R. Koerber, fellow of Whitewater. W. H. Stillman who has been in town for some time past returned to his New York home Thursday. He was accompanied by his brother, Albert Stillman. On account of the short notice given a very small audience listened to the temperance lecture by Rev. E. L. Cooke, last Thursday evening. E. Bullock was so unfortunate as to lose a fine colt one day last week, while Z. Brown and E. Hull each mourn the death of a fat hog. In order to have matters done up Brown, Lima should have a wedding soon. Notice to Stockholders.—A special meeting of the stockholders of the Janesville Machine Company will be held at the company's office in the city of Janesville, Wis., on Saturday, December 26th, 1886, at 10 o'clock a. m. for the purpose of electing a board of directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting. By order of board of directors. J. D. REXFORD, President. ISAAC FARNSWORTH, Secretary.

BATTLE OF THE BEASTS.

AN AFRICAN LION WHO TOOK TOO BIG A CONTRACT.

He Wages Desperate War with an Elephant and Gets a Check for the Other Shore—A Lion-Tamer's Narrow Escape.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10.—A lion, fresh from Nubia, arrived at Adams Forepaugh's winter headquarters a few weeks ago. He was very anxious, and the trainer has been having great trouble with him. Prince the lion, was isolated and provided daily for a month, and it was not until Tuesday that the trainer dared to enter the cage, when Prince growled savagely. The trainer carried, besides a couple of revolvers with which to protect himself. The lion made no movement until the trainer struck him with the whip. Then Prince sprang to his feet and made a vicious lunge with his paw. The man jumped aside, and the lion, perceiving escaped disappointment, but sustained a fearful laceration of the thigh and leg. Then the lion prepared to spring at the trainer, and the trainer jumped backward with a force to be believed. The door from its fastenings. He fell out upon the ground and for a moment was stunned. 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